

Reality Websites:

www.ivaw.net - Iraq Vets Against the War.

www.mfso.org - Military Families speak out.

www.gsfp.org - Gold Star Families for Peace

www.citizen-soldier.org - Excellent information.

www.girights.org - GI Rights Hotline. Information if you have signed up or are enlisted. 800-394-9544.

www.couragetoresist.org - Support for the growing number of soldiers who refuse and resist.

See <http://icasualties.org/oif/Statecity.aspx> for a listing by state and city of our youth who gave their lives.

See www.pbs.org and the video “A Soldier’s Heart”

This flier is produced by the “Youth and the Military Committee” of the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center. We invite your participation. Call us to find out about meetings and activities. 925.933.7850
www.mtdpc.org



Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center

55 Eckley Lane

Walnut Creek, 94596-6799

Phone: 925-933-7850 * Email: info@mtdpc.org

Photograph:

Lafayette hillside with crosses commemorating fallen US soldiers.

Death toll is approaching 5,000 as of March 2009.

Do You Have Friends Who Are Thinking of ENLISTING?



Crosses of Lafayette, California

Help them make an informed choice.

It may be the most important decision of his or her life.

Make sure they know the FACTS.

Common Questions:

1. *Will the military pay for college education?*

Facts: Although all soldiers who sign up for Montgomery GI Bill have \$100 per month deducted from their paychecks for one year, 57% never receive a penny in return. An average Federal Pell grant (\$2,500) is larger than the average veteran payment for college (\$2,151). You need at least three years active service and an honorable discharge to qualify. If you receive funds from the GI Bill this will count as income and will often REDUCE other college aid.

2. *Can you count on promises of the military recruiter?*

Verbal promises from a military recruiter are not binding on the military. Some recruiters exaggerate or misrepresent in order to meet their quota. The WRITTEN CONTRACT can be changed and your service extended for years if conditions change. The enlistment contract states, "Laws and regulations that govern military personnel may change without notice to me."

3. *Will the military be good for you, physically or mentally?*

While the military can be good for some people, there are many whose lives are negatively affected. Veterans make up a large number of homeless. As of March 2009 about 5,000 brave young Americans have died in Iraq and Afghanistan with another 35,000 seriously injured. Divorce among married soldiers is common and there is an alarming increase in suicides. In 2008 there were 128 suicides

amongst active duty soldiers – on average one every two or three days. Suicide attempts are increasing. Going to war not only risks your physical health, but your mental health as well.

4. *Is the military a good way to serve the country and your community?*

Some people believe the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan make us LESS safe not more. The Bush Administration said Iraq was a danger to us but that is not supported by the facts. There were no WMDs and Iraq was not involved in 9-11. A recent poll taken in Iraq shows the large majority of Iraqi people want the US to leave immediately. Try to put yourself in the position of an average Iraqi. What would you do if another country invaded and occupied OUR country? As for Afghanistan, there is a reason it is known as "the graveyard of empires". The Mongols, British and Russians all tried to rule Afghanistan with disastrous consequences. What are we doing in Afghanistan when the majority of people do not want us there?

5. *Are there other career options?*

YES. There are other options for getting a college education, serving your country and leading an exciting life. Check out Americorps at www.americorps.org. They provide great experience and have good projects. Community colleges provide many options. Or consider training to be an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). Check out the MDPC flier titled "Non Military Alternatives for Contra Costa Youth". It includes contact information for many EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CAREER ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE HERE IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY. Phone us at the number listed on this flier or visit our website www.mtdpc.org

Remember: signing up is an EIGHT YEAR commitment (four years active duty plus four years "inactive"). If you are in a bad situation and the military is an attractive escape, think about the longer term consequences. There may be better ways to change your situation.

We wish you all the best: a fulfilling future without harm to yourself or others.